

Saul and David Compare and Contrast

“3 Steps to Success” – A Study by Kurt Pfanstiel

God's character is holy, it is not only that He hasn't sinned, He has no desire to sin. Isaiah 14 says Satan is a copycat. He said "I will be like the Most-High God". Satan's every desire is to sin in order to become something he will never be. We would say this is selfishness. Holiness creates righteousness and pure motivations.

God's motivation is love. Satan's motivation is hate. He is the "accuser of the brethren". He accused Job. He sifted Peter. He motivated Cain to kill Abel. The outcome of hate is murder. Anger and bitterness created the hate, when allowed to fester and mature. Love makes yourself responsible first to make a situation right.

God's work is to create. Satan's work is to murder. Or, maybe we could say Satan's work is to dismantle God's work. Satan accomplished this in one generation as Cain killed Abel. Abel's heart was to align with what his father Adam said and what his Father God said. Abel received reward and favour for this. Cain wanted Abel's reward without having the same character and motivation and work. That would make him jealous of Abel and angry at God. Jealousy and anger find its root in bitterness, which ultimately become hate and murder.

That is what Satan ultimately was, bitter, that he did not have the affection of God's children. So, his work is to murder the children. Not so much in the natural, but in the spirit. Turn the affection of the children to Satan, himself, in the human lifetime, so that the children will spend eternity in regret and bitterness that they did not choose God.

We see this play out in many stories...

*Cain and Abel

*Isaac and Ishmael

*Jacob vs Esau

*And so, it is also with Saul vs David, the battle of flesh vs spirit, of "carnality" as Paul stated, of restraint of the Law vs alignment of the heart, the pursuit of foreign gods and women vs one God and one woman. The pursuit of man's kingdoms vs God's kingdom.

Saul is not the chosen man. But God will give him grace, to let the spirit fall on him and turn him into the man God can use. But Saul will not have the character needed to stay the course, to repent, to keep his heart clean before the Lord. His motivation will become selfish. He will become jealous of David and make decisions that show his true heart. Ultimately, he will fail at the simplicity of obedience to God and it will cost him his kingdom and his life.

And so, God looks for the man whose heart is to pursue holiness, whose heart is first to repent before his God. God looks for the man who understands things happen because of Love, not by force or fear. God looks for the man who will allow God to put him on the Potter's Wheel (Romans 9), for God to create God's will in the man, for the man to trust God in this process and allow God to reward the man for his faithfulness. God looks for the "tested" man, who is tested first in family, his father's household, and then in faithfulness in

supporting another man's vision. It is this man who is ready to be king. (James 1:1-8...let faith/patience have her perfect work)

So, here is the story in a nutshell, the "3 Steps to Success". You must:

Be Faithful

- In your father's household (0-20 years old)
- In another man's vision (20-30-40 years old)
- In your own kingdom (over 40...)

I Samuel

The time of the prophet Samuel is a transition from being led by God's judges to being led by a human king. (I Samuel 7:15, 16 Samuel was both prophet and judge). God's personal request was to be both Judge and King. Israel was to be under both God's Sovereignty and Judgment. He Himself would be King and communicate through the prophets. God delegated the Rule of Law or "judging" to those chosen of the people of God. Israel wanted to be like other nations and have both king and judge under one human rule. In either system, faithfulness would result in blessing and disobedience would result in chaos for the nation. I Samuel 2:30 "I will honour those who honour me and treat with contempt those who despise me."

6:8... (Return of the ark of the covenant by the Philistines) Start the wagon and let it go itself. If it goes to Beth Shemesh, then it means God is directing the ark. This happens. The ark, the way of God, knows how to find its home. Even though the Israelites might make a mess of things, as long as God is allowed to reign, He will bring them home. If they lose their allegiance to God, its "Katie bar the door".

Note the ark gets "mishandled" and is put on a rock. Men from Beth Shemesh look inside the box. 70 die. Two things to remember: The Lord controls his Holy Spirit of Truth, the "way" things should go. He also expects the process and journey to be handled properly. These would both be true for Saul and David. Were they, as king, going God's way? Were they acting properly along the way?

7:3-4 Getting rid of all gods (Genesis 35:1-4). Samuel rules and there is peace. The Philistines are defeated. God is the "Stone of Help". (Cornerstone, Capstone, Keystone, Rock of Stumbling)

8:1-10 Samuel turns over leadership to his sons. They are evil. Israel asks for a king like other nations because Samuel's sons will be poor leaders and can't be trusted. God tells Samuel that Israel's issue is with God, not him. Samuel is to tell Israel how a "worldly" king will work out.

Let us not miss the point that Samuel, while he was a great man of God, had "rotten" sons. Life is lived in layers. Follower of Christ/Husband/Father/Vocation or Ministry ... Being a good father comes before what you do for your life's work. What good is success in this generation when the next generation falls apart. God, even though He is Creator, is first Father. Before He created the world, He made provision for our sin. I Peter 1:18-20. More

crisis comes out of bad fathering than not doing your “vocation” well. Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6-Our relationship with God is described as “Abba, Father”. Jesus called His Father that. Paul used the term to describe the adoption we have in our salvation. Also Paul used the word Abba to say fatherly relationship is so strong in us that we “cry out” Father. It is both a Hebrew and a Greek term. This places the importance in a man to be a great dad. It is probably the main reason why a woman will let a man choose her in marriage, because the most important thing she probably wants is children and a great family and nest. She will respect most the one who provides and watches over the family and kids.

Note neither Samuel nor Saul nor David were great fathers. The greater the assets and achievements and abilities at stake, the greater the need to father character. Knowledge can always be learned; heart must be developed. Heart is God’s criteria. “Someone who will care what I care about.” That is why we raise kids, to care about what God cares about.

8:10-18 (Carnal, “man-chosen kings”). “He will take”....

- *Make soldiers of your sons
- *Your sons will farm for the king
- *Your sons will make weapons for the king
- *Your daughters will be cooks, bakers, perfumers
- *He will take your best fields, vineyards, ... and give them to officials
- *He will take a tenth of your best grains and grapes
- *He will take your best cattle, donkeys and servants and put them to work for himself
- *He will take a tenth of your flocks
- *You will become his slaves (everything you have is his?)
- *You will be bitter how this works out, but it is your fault for asking for it and God will not listen
- *(Thomas Paine: Common Sense 500,000 copies in print, 1775)

Sound like today’s governments (they will take? 8)

8:19-22 The people still said they wanted a king to lead them in battles, to rule over them, to be like other nations. God told Samuel to ordain the king. Therefore, the king Samuel would ordain would be “of the people, of flesh,” not of God’s ordaining. 8:7-9 The people’s issue is with God, not Samuel. They are judging that what the world has is more important than their perception of what they have in God. They will not be put on the Potter’s Wheel. They are incorrectly judging “truth”. This is similar to the Parable of the Talents where the “one talent” person misjudged the Master in Matthew 25 (I knew you were a hard master who reaped where he didn’t sow, so I hid your one talent, here it is. However, the master was very generous to the other two servants.)

9:1-5 Saul is from a wealthy, influential family. He is handsome, in the prime of life, taller than average. He looks the part.

Saul is watching his father’s donkeys, a “dumb animal”. He loses them and wants to give up searching for them. Does the animal represent the person? Saul is not faithful in his “watch”. He probably never had many “chores” to do. (Did he make his bed every day?) 8)

You must learn to “re-set” each day, to re-set yourself. Why should you be put in charge if you never learned to “sweep the corners”? Be personally in charge of you, of your personal space, of the space delegated to you. You will then be ready for your “kingdom space.” You will have a kingdom someday. Your children learn from what they see you do. They learn from what you stop and teach them. The mind remembers what the hands do. Are you creating “teaching moments” with your children?

9:6-14 The donkeys are lost. Saul’s servant is smart enough to send Saul to find the seer, Samuel. Saul has no offering to bring. (Note we will see Saul as king in a later story having no blacksmith or weapons for his army. Is Saul a man who lives in the moment or a man that plans for the future?) The servant just has a small coin. They find Samuel just before he eats. Is the offering the servant has actually for honour of the seer, Samuel, or just for the incompetence of the task?

Learn from the past
Live for today
Plan for tomorrow
Dream for the future

9:15-20 God told Samuel that Saul was coming and to anoint him. God still heard the cries of Israel to be saved from the Philistines. Saul and the servant were to eat with Samuel. (The ark still finds its way home.)

9:21 Saul answers Samuel, just as Gideon answered. Smallest tribe, least important family.

9:22-26 Saul is given the head of the table and the choicest cut of meat amongst 30 guests. He has not earned any of this. Saul eats with Samuel and the invited guests and gets a bed for the night. “Straight to the head of the class”.

10:1-8 Saul is anointed with a man-made jar or flask. He is told he will rule and protect the people of Israel. (Note this is what David does with his father’s sheep. Saul shows no evidence of the ability to do this.) The donkeys are found for him, Saul does not find them. Saul is to meet Samuel in Gilgal to offer sacrifice. Samuel tells Saul he will run into some men who will give him supplies for the sacrifice. Saul will also run into some prophets. When Saul meets these singing and dancing prophets, the Spirit will turn Saul “into another man” and Saul will become and act like the prophets. When these things happen, Saul is to do what God leads him to do. Afterward Saul was to wait seven days for Samuel in Gilgal.

10:9-16 God gives Saul a new nature. Everything that Samuel said would happen actually happens. The donkeys are found. However, Saul does not tell his uncle about the kingship or God’s favour upon him. Why? Pride? Lack of confidence? The people wonder if Saul has become a prophet? What has happened to the “son of Kish”? Note, as a son, you were known by your father’s name. “How well did you represent your father?” Why did the people wonder whether Saul could be a spiritual man? Where had the character been built to be ready for the task?

Contrast Gideon in Judges 6 with Saul. Gideon is told he is a mighty warrior. He has questions. God reinforces He will help Gideon and Gideon should go in the strength he has. Gideon's response is to provide an offering of food. Gideon ends up tearing down idols. Elevating God comes first. This acknowledges the call and blessing of God. Saul did none of this. The key for Saul is Samuel told him to go to Gilgal and wait for Samuel. He must obey. Saul will fail at this. See 10:8.

Pitstop (What about us?):

*Joseph, Genesis 41:37-41 "Is there a man in all the land who has the spirit of the Lord?"

*Daniel 2:19-23

*Luke 22:31-34 "Sift, Ruin>>Strengthen"

*Psalm 33:8-12

10:17-21 Samuel tells the people Saul is anointed king. His tribe and family are chosen, but they cannot find Saul?

10:22 Saul is hiding behind some supplies. The people find him and recognize him as king. All go back home, including Saul to Gibeah. God touched some men's hearts and they went with Saul. Others thought Saul would amount to nothing. "Kings don't hide". You cannot hide your good looks; you can hide your character flaws.

Note Saul looks the part, being tall and handsome, but he doesn't carry himself in a way that the people can see him as king.

Ch 11 Saul goes to war. The Spirit of God takes control of him and gives him fury to fight. Israel wins and celebration happens. Note the size of army Saul has. 300,000 from Israel and 30,000 from Judah. Where/how would he learn to lead an army of this size? Only if he totally depended on the Lord for this. See Joshua 5:14 where Joshua surrenders on the ground in full worship and servitude to the Lord. This is the only way to learn to lead. What will Saul do long term?

Ch 12 Samuel is getting old. He tells Israel they have committed a great sin to ask for their own king (vs 17-20). Samuel prays for Israel and asks them to stay committed to God. Samuel's conscience is clear in how he has done his job. Israel, since the wilderness, had continued to pursue foreign gods. They are told to obey God, serve Him faithfully and remember the great things the Lord had done. Continuing to sin will result in theirs and Saul's destruction. Note the continuing encouragement to not pursue foreign gods or marry foreign women. See Joshua 24:19-24. How will Saul go in staying committed to God??

Ch 13 Saul makes war against the Philistines. The Philistines make a strong attack. The Israelites hide in caves, rocks, holes or crossed the river. Saul is at Gilgal with others, all of whom are trembling with fear. (Remember Saul was hiding. Any organization becomes like its leader over time.) Samuel has not shown up yet, as he said he would to make sacrifice. The army starts to desert. Saul takes over and makes sacrifice. Just then Samuel shows up. "Saul, what have you done?" (Why did you disobey and make sacrifice?)

F words, Faith<>Fear

*Matthew 14:27-32 (Peter, walk on water)

*Mark 16:14 (Why did you not believe the women who said I had risen?)

*Faith requires action, action requires courage, courage comes from facing giants, giants create fear, the solution to this is on a battlefield with your own weapons, your own weapons are the ones you have practiced with. They fit "you".

*"Yesterday's failure, Today's fear, Tomorrow's uncertainty" cannot keep you from acting in faith. Teach your children.

Saul had many excuses why he made sacrifice instead of Samuel, without being able to say "I disobeyed". Gen 4:7 Sin crouches, waiting to master you, but you must rule over it.

*The army was deserting

*You, Samuel, weren't here

*I saw the Philistine army gathering and getting big

*I thought the Philistines would attack

*We had not sought the Lord's favour

*"I felt I had to offer sacrifice". "I felt compelled ..."

"I just had to ..." "Someone had to ..."

**Side note, this is how Jezebel gets in. No man exercises authority so she says "I have a solution". She will lead the nation to a different God. She hides under the authority.

Samuel was not looking for excuses. "Saul, you disobeyed."

Saul, because you disobeyed, your rule as king will be over. Vs 14 The Lord will find the kind of man He wants and make him ruler over His people. (David, a man after God's own heart.)

13:19-23 There are no blacksmiths and therefore no swords or spears. There are no plows or hoes so food can't be grown. Israel has to pay for this.

It is said that an organization becomes like its leaders over time. When Saul went to be anointed by Samuel, Saul said he was from the smallest and weakest tribe. He went in hiding. While the Lord could come upon him, his true nature was fear and lack of confidence. Do we see this in the army? They are hiding, afraid, deserting. Somehow, they have no weapons. Is this all because of the man Saul is? Did he never have to prove himself at a job, with chores at home, with never representing his father at anything? Will this make him a poor father?

Ch 14 Saul's son Jonathan seems to represent something different than Saul? He wonders whether the Lord will give him victory and puts that to the test. Jonathan takes an armour bearer with him. They attack. "Do what I do". Victory is achieved, 20 are killed. The Philistines think the whole army of Israel is coming and flee. Some of the enemy join Israel, others come out of the holes they were hiding in, Saul mobilises the army (which he himself could not do) and Israel is saved. Note Jonathan will later side with David as a "brother". This is a better match of Jonathan and who David is. However, Jonathan will still die on the battlefield with his father. Matthew 19:29, 30

Saul's men are not only without weapons, but they were without food. Saul had threatened them not to eat until they had defeated the enemy. This was a foolish thing to do as the army had no strength from not eating. Jonathan, however, had not heard his father say this

and he ate some honey. He thought Saul was foolish. When the battle was over, Saul's men quickly went to the livestock taken as the victor's spoils and slaughtered some animals. They, however, forgot to drain the blood from the meat, a Levitical sin. Saul called them traitors. A stone was provided to drain the blood from the meat and keep the people from sinning.

Saul wants to pursue the enemy at night. However, in consulting the Lord, there is no agreement. Saul thinks sin is involved. He asks who disobeyed. It is Jonathan who ate the honey. Saul thinks he should be killed for the disobedience. The rest of the army stops this.

God allowed Saul to be victorious. It seems Saul learned from his mistakes. Sometimes he found a fierce warrior. He would enlist that person in his army. Saul had three sons and two daughters.

My guess is Saul was slowly blaming others for his misdeeds. His army fought hard but he called them traitors. The army had to keep him from killing Jonathan over eating the honey, a misunderstanding, not a disobedience. Was he wrong to enlist others? Was this against the will of the soldiers?

Ch 15 Samuel tells Saul that God wants to punish the Amalekites. Saul is to kill everything and everyone. He doesn't, Saul disobeys again. The life of King Agag is spared as is the choicest livestock.

God is sorry he made Saul king as Saul continues to disobey and take matters into his own hands. Samuel is angry with Saul and spends all night pleading with the Lord over the Lord's decisions about Saul. Saul makes a monument to himself and tells Samuel he obeyed, which he didn't.

Saul says he kept the best livestock for the Lord "your God". Does this imply God is not Saul's God anymore? Has Saul become "full of himself" and his military accomplishments, which God had given him? Why the monument? Saul's conscience seems seared at this point as he is clueless about disobeying? Remember 8:7, 8. Israel is not rejecting Samuel, they are rejecting God. Same for Saul.

Samuel tells Saul what God said. Why did you not obey? Why did you rush to grab the spoils of war? Why did you displease God? You consider yourself of no importance, but you are still the leader. The people see you and will do what you do. The leader must have character and standards.

Saul said he did what he did to bring sacrifice to the Lord. But Samuel said God wants obedience, not sacrifices. Rebelling is like witchcraft, arrogance is like idolatry. Saul, you rejected the Lord's command, so He has rejected you as king.

Saul became worried about his reputation, about his comfort level, about how others would perceive him. Saul said he sinned and disobeyed, but never seemed to actually repent. He was afraid of failure in front of his men. He did what the men wanted; not what God wanted.

Saul may have looked for “cheap grace” as he asks for forgiveness so he can go worship. Sometimes it is just too easy to say “sorry, sorry, sorry”. God rejected Saul and Saul’s efforts to find the good graces of the Lord.

Samuel turns to leave. Saul grabs his cloak to stop him, probably to again “plead ignorance”. The cloak tears. Samuel says the Lord, that day, has torn the kingdom from Saul. The Lord does not lie, there is no way out of this. God is not human; he is the righteous judge and does not change his mind. (In Noah’s time, the Lord was sad he made man, but it did not change his judgment. Gen 6:6 God is not afraid to close the door of the ark) Note Samuel was gracious enough to accompany Saul back to worship to keep respect in front of the people. Samuel still has a heart for Saul because he is king of Israel. Samuel seems to see there is a cruel ending coming for Saul.

Samuel finishes God’s will with King Agag by hacking Agag to pieces. It is the cross to bear of the prophet. You are God’s representative on the earth and you must fulfill His will when no one else will. Samuel never saw Saul again but he grieved for him.

Note that Saul keeps trying to wiggle out of the situation. He has lots of reasons which are not backed up by the action of obedience. God regretted He made Saul king. Note the difference in David’s actions in Psalm 51. Against you and you alone have I sinned.

Saul is lacking in character. He was not ready for the levels of responsibility he was given. He never had to serve under someone else or prove himself against what they wanted. Saul did not seem to understand that people watch how leaders act. People become like the leader. Leaders set the standard and are always responsible for the whole.

Your “being” is who you are on the inside, your character, your willpower to pursue truth and righteousness. “Doing” is allowing your character to be displayed through the work you do. The more work, the more you need to achieve, the more first you need to build character.

“The greater the need to do, the greater the need to be”.

Saul’s “being” was not developed for Saul’s “doing”.

Great artists and athletes have practiced for 10,000 hours before they become great.

Genesis 16:12 describes Ishmael. He will be like a wild man or a wild donkey of a man. His hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him. He will have a hostile relationship with others. This seems to be the description of the carnal or fleshly man who disobeys God or is stiff necked toward God. Was this true of Cain, of Esau, of Saul?? Is this like the men at the cross with Christ. One man says remember me. The other says “get me down from here, I’ve got things to do.” The second man is the man whose kingdom is torn from him.

Discuss Force and Fear, FOP/FOF Fear of People, Fear of Failure.

Adoption as sons, loving discipline for the long-term vs fear/force for the short term.

*Faithful in father's house, 20 years

*Faithful in another man's vision, 20 years

*Faithful in your kingdom, your Father's kingdom, 40+ years>>eternity>>generational (Genesis 18:19)

*Jerusalem>Judea>Samaria>Uttermost part of the earth

Giving you a "piece of the pie" in His Kingdom

Ch 16

God tells Samuel to get some oil and anoint one of Jesse's sons, whom God has chosen. Samuel uses a ram's horn, "something God made". Saul was anointed with a manmade flask. Note I Samuel 9 where Saul's father Kish is described as a wealthy and influential man. Saul is described as handsome and a foot taller than others, one who would stand out in the room. Jesse is just a man from Bethlehem that Samuel is to invite to a sacrifice.

Samuel sees Eliab, Jesse's son, and is moved by what he sees. "He must be the one." Vs 7, 8 God says to be moved by the heart, not what is seen on the outside. Heart is formed by the time spent in your father's household (being good at video games while living at home does not qualify 8). Seven sons come before Samuel, but they aren't the answer. Note Vs 11, David is out caring for the sheep, obeying, being responsible. Saul had lost his father's donkeys. Note the animal matches the character. Saul is a stubborn man and he is watching a stubborn animal. David is an obedient son and is faithful, a man of heart. The animal he watches is the animal that describes the people of God and is an innocent animal.

David is also a handsome, healthy young man with bright eyes. Samuel anoints David. Immediately the spirit comes on him. He was not like Saul who needed to be in the company of prophets for the spirit to fall.

David has been in his father's household and has been faithful. He has watched the sheep. He has fought the lion and the bear to keep the sheep safe. (Jesus, the Great Shepherd, whose forerunner is David the shepherd. Care for the sheep prepares you to care for the army prepares you to care for the people of your kingdom.) Now he is moving to "phase 2" where he becomes a servant in Saul's court. David is described as one who is a good musician, plays well, brave, handsome, a good soldier and an able speaker. Where did all this skill become learned? In his father's house? Note Saul refers to David as the one who cares for sheep. How did Saul know that? Note Jesse sends David with a young goat, bread and wine. Jesse wants to serve the king, not only by giving his son's time, but giving gifts. Remember, Gideon's first response was to provide food as a sacrifice. David plays the harp to soothe the torment in Saul. Saul likes David and David becomes his armour bearer. This is a close position to Saul, like a cupbearer. How did David earn this place of importance? Is he just like his father? There is no evidence Saul earned any place of importance like this. He is just put in place, graduating "for free" to be king?

Where would David have learned to keep weapons? Why would Saul trust him with this with no experience. David had a staff, a sling, a satchel, ...

Monopoly: "Go to jail, do not pass go" ... Is it fair for God to tell us we are not ready for assignment and we have to go backward? "Go back to your father's house?"

Ch 17 Vs 17-19 David is to take grain, bread and cheese to his brothers and their commanding officer. He is to see how they are doing and report back. Note the simple obedience to do what his father asked is how David meets Goliath. What is the most important thing we teach our children? To want what God wants, to learn to obey parents so they learn to obey God. Obedience is what places you in the proper place for God to use you and reward you.

The Israelite soldiers see Goliath and are moved by his size. They run in terror. They fear his challenge. Note the soldiers know the reward (reward, Saul's daughter, no taxes), but it is not enough to coax them to fight. (Size of the prize not big enough for their eyes.) Note fear and hiding again, like Saul.

David asks about the reward, but he turns the conversation to defying God. Saul sought reward, but the honour of God was never enough for him to totally obey. David doesn't fight for the reward, but for the honour of God, just like he watched sheep for the honour of his father.

Just like the men are moved by the sight of Goliath, so are they moved by the sight of David. Eliab asks why David is there? "You are just a shepherd boy and a smart aleck; you just came to watch. Go home." This was the same challenge for Gideon. God said he was a mighty warrior and that God would go with him. Did Gideon agree with God? Did David agree with his experiences watching sheep? While David was obeying to bring bread and cheese, the warrior inside him was waking up. The brothers did not see the warrior inside David.

Saul says David is just a boy, not a soldier. David says he has been a soldier, just in a different way. He has killed the lion and bear who came after his father's sheep. David grabbed them by the throat, "face to face". The Lord saved him from the lion and bear and He will do it again. This isn't about how big the giant is, it's about defying God. David watched his father's sheep as if they were his own and how his father wanted them to be watched. Now this is about soldiers, God's family, not sheep, but the "heart effort" is the same.

David used his own weapons, which he became comfortable with, in his father's household. See Vs 45-48. David did not fear Goliath's taunts. "I come in the name of the Lord". (Gideon) David ran at Goliath, killed him and cut off his head. Where did a teenager learn to "cut off his head"?

Saul inquired who David was. "I am the son of your servant Jesse". Like father, like son. "A chip off the old block." There is no evidence Saul ever had experiences like this in his father's household and he skipped being faithful in another man's household.

Discuss FOTB and faithful in another man's house.

Father gives bride away and the FOTB/father protects virginity.
This allows children, generations and for young men to become new fathers.
You can always get a job; you have to earn the right to become a husband and a father.
Fathering is learning to handle authority and responsibility given to you.

Added note: Jesse, and therefore David, is in the lineage of Christ. See Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:12 Christ, through David, is a root from the stump of Jesse, the royal line of David and Christ. Saul's father may have been wealthy and handsome, but Jesse, maybe a common man, is the stump, from which draws the lineage of Christ. Acts 13:22 David, the man after God's own heart. Saul was after his own personal heart, not God's.

Ch 18 Saul permanently keeps David with him. Jonathan, Saul's son, develops a great friendship with David. He gives David his robe and weapons of sword, bow and belt. They have a deep affection for each other. (Covenant gifts) We will see later that although it seems Jonathan believes David will be king instead of his father, Jonathan nevertheless dies on the battlefield with his father Saul.

Genesis 15 God's covenant with Abram. Note it is one-way.
*You must keep the vultures away.

David becomes a successful officer in Saul's army. David has moved from bread and cheese deliverer to armour bearer and harp player to military leader. Saul's torment from an evil spirit moves to become jealousy as David grows in favour with others. Saul has slain his thousands, but David has tens of thousands. Saul throws a spear at David in a jealous rage.

The Lord has abandoned Saul, but gives David success everywhere. Saul fears David and the spirit of the Lord that is on him. David continues to grow in favour with the people daily. (Luke 2:52 Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favour with God and with man.) Saul's "carnality" becomes more and more an issue as anger and jealousy and personal failure eat at him. (Psalm 1)

Saul is now not just throwing a spear at David, but actually plotting to kill him. He gives David his daughter Michal in marriage in return for 100 Philistine foreskins. Saul thinks David will be killed trying to do this. David provides 200. David is now basically famous with people. The fame is not getting to him though. He still fights for Saul and for Israel humbly. (Note that later David sends Uriah into battle, hoping he will die.)

Ch 19

Saul now tells Jonathan and the military leaders that he plans to kill David. It only took one generation for Cain to murder Abel. Note that both Saul and David will murder. Saul desires to murder David while David has Uriah killed so David can have Bathsheba. "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Jonathan makes a plan to help keep David safe. Note vs 4 where Jonathan says to Saul that David has never done Saul wrong and he has been a great help to Saul. Saul cannot "return the favour", he is rotten inside over his relationship with David. Remember in 1 Samuel 9:5,

Saul was ready to quit looking for his father's donkeys. He never really found the resolve he needed and the humility to lead. Saul repents and says he will not kill David. But, he still throws a spear at David again and still plots to kill David. David escapes to Samuel. Saul and his men pursue. But, when they come in contact with Samuel and his prophets, they dance in the Lord. Saul danced nakedly.

Saul just does not seem to grasp the Lord's favour over David. David should be justified to kill Saul in return. David does not do this. As Ishmael was a "wild man", so too, Saul's flesh or carnality continues to grow. Saul's actions continue to separate him from David and David's actions for the Lord.

Ch 20

Jonathan comes to realise just how much his father Saul wants to kill David. But Jonathan and David still have a great brotherly love with each other. They pledge to each other to stay on the same side together, to not be at odds. Saul is really mad at Jonathan for choosing David and throws his spear at Jonathan. David escapes after pledging with Jonathan to be faithful to each other, even for generations after them. Saul will do anything to keep his kingship, even to commit murder of anyone in the way. Force and fear are good words to describe Saul's attitude.

Ch 21 David eats the shewbread or Bread of Presence from the Table of Bread, the bread meant for the priests. (Matthew 12:1-8) David becomes a forerunner of both king and priest, as was Melchizedek, as was Christ. We will see later in David's kingship examples of a "three-legged" stool, which is like a three-fold cord not easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12) and is the foundation that causes God to move. David is the king, Zadok is the priest, Gad or Nathan were the prophets.

Ch 22

Cave of Adullam, 400 men come to David. They are not much to start with, but they have heart for David (3D Men?).

- *Distressed

- *Debt

- *Discontented

Saul left his men without weapons and blacksmiths. David took men without weapons who were carrying hardships and made them into a mighty army. The men became like the leader. Gad tells David he can't keep hiding in the rocks and cave at Adullam. He has to move on. Trust God. Saul's men were stuck hiding in the rocks and caves.

Discuss pioneers, settlers, museum keepers. Pioneers never let themselves set for too long, they have to move on.

Saul is melting down. He thinks his men are plotting against him. He believes David wants to kill him (which proves not true). Saul can't believe Jonathan will join David instead of Saul and no one in the army told Saul about all this. Saul is accusing his people, but maybe he should be repenting. Maybe God is behind all this. Psalm 51, David will repent. Vs 14, 15 David is "vouched" for, he is innocent of his actions against Saul. Saul and Doeg kill 85 priests and other people of the city. More killing or murder. Saul is slowly becoming like his father, Satan.

Ch 23 David demonstrates several times that he always tried to inquire of the Lord before going to battle. As time went on, Saul acted out of frustration and anger, trying to control the circumstance himself. David and Jonathan again commit their lives to each other. I Samuel 30:6 David encouraged himself in the Lord.

Ch 24 Vs 4-7 Saul and 3000 men are chasing David. Finding David is Saul's obsession. David is hiding in a cave. Saul goes into the cave to go to the bathroom. David cut off part of Saul's robe so Saul would know David could have killed him. David's men tell him to kill Saul, but David won't. Psalm 105:12-15, "Touch not mine anointed."

Vs 10 David tries to convince Saul he wouldn't kill him. Saul calls David son. Saul admits his wrong attitude against David. Just as when Saul tore Samuel's robe and asks to save face, he does the same with David and asks to have his family name saved. Saul's repentance only goes so far as to save face, not full repentance? Psalm 51, David: I have sinned against you God, you and you alone.

Ch 25 David blesses Nabal's men. Nabal treats David's men poorly. Nabal's wife Abigail repents with David for Nabal's stupidity. See Vs 27-35 for how the Lord is watching over David and his reputation. Nabal seems to be like Saul? Nabal dies.

Ch 26 See Vs 7-12. David again has the chance to kill Saul but doesn't. Again, David's men try and get him to do it, but David will not come against the man God put in place. David believes God will remove him. See Vs 21-25.

Ch 27 David escapes to Philistia so Saul won't chase him. Achish, son of the king of Gath, lets him stay in a place called Ziklag. David goes raiding and kills all the people in the area but keeps the livestock. Saul lets David go. See I Chronicles 12 for how the army forms at Ziklag. See the talent of the soldiers coming. Vs 16-18, see how the army forms. This is a talented and large army that forms under David's reputation. Could this have happened for Saul if he had not gone astray? Where did David learn his leadership skills?

Ch 28 Samuel had died. Saul had no one to consult so he goes to find a medium. (Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft) The Lord would not answer him. Saul disguises himself to go to the medium. Samuel is called up. He tells Saul that Saul disobeyed. Nothing will fix this. "Prepare to meet your maker." Saul's sons will die also. Evidently, they are complicit in the affair too. Again, Saul is going to any length, no matter how sinful, and without repentance, to save himself and cover his reputation.

Saul has now said many times it was his fault. Evidently, again, none of it was really true? David's repentance was true. See II Samuel 24:24.

Ch 29 Vs 6-10 David and his men fight for Achish. See the statements of loyalty made. However, David and the army must leave.

Ch 30 While David and his men are gone, their families and livestock are taken. The army is distraught, but David inquires of the Lord and takes on the battle. All is returned. See Vs 18-25. David is again faithful. He believes in the army he has built and rallies the troops to victory.

Ch 31 Saul, his three sons, and an armour bearer die on the battlefield. Saul takes his own life. Jonathan, who several times pledged his life to David, dies with his father. Why?? Saul is beheaded and his armour and weapons removed and placed in the Temple of Astarte. His body is nailed to a wall, along with his sons. Later the bodies are removed and burned. A fitting ending for Saul's rebellion?

David in His Kingship II Samuel

Ch 1 David finds out Saul and Jonathan are dead. He grieves and fasts and writes a lament. He does not gloat over Saul even though Saul tried to spear him twice and chased him to kill him. David kept his respect not to touch God's anointed.

Ch 2 David is made king over the tribe of Judah. He is king for 7 ½ years over "Judah". Note Judah is faithful to David. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Genesis 38, Judah was not faithful. Hmm... Abner is Saul's commander. He installs Saul's son Ishbosheth as king over the other tribes as King of Israel. Joab is Judah's commander. Joab and Abner's armies fight. (Age 30 Judah, Age 37 Israel also, ruled for 40 years 5:4-5)

Ch 3 and 4 David's army continues to strengthen over time. David has six sons (info). Fighting continues between Saul's family/Israel and David's family/Judah. Joab kills Abner. Ishbosheth is killed. David is not guilty of either death and does not condone the murders. Jonathan's son Mephibosheth is introduced in the story. He was a cripple because a nurse accidentally dropped him while in a hurry to flee from intruders.

Ch 5 David becomes king over all 12 tribes. See Vs 6-10. Jebusites say he won't conquer them. "Nevertheless" David's army conquers the Jebusites and they take Jerusalem. Genesis 15:18-21, I Chronicles 11:4-9 (see whole chapter to learn about the army, mighty men, ...)

Twice David inquires of the Lord whether to attack. Note David does this quite a bit, inquiring. The battle and the battle plan are the Lord's, not David's.

David's army fights a battle at Baal Perazim, where David says "The Lord has broken through like a flood." See a reference to Genesis 38 and the name Perez meaning "breakthrough". See Isaiah 59:19, the Lord comes like a flood...

Ch 6 David wants to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, but no one consults the scriptures that Moses wrote on how to handle it. It is put on a cart instead of carrying it on poles. When the cart stumbles, Uzzah reaches out to steady it. This means he improperly handles the ark and dies. David is scared of the Lord because of this and promises to sort out what went wrong. The ark goes to Obed Edom's house, where he and his house are blessed. The ark is finally properly brought to Jerusalem amongst much singing and dancing and worshipping and sacrificing. David dances in just his "tidy whities". His wife Michal is offended at his "exposure" in front of servant women. David's heart is to show his reverence for the ark, but also, David will not withhold anything from the Lord. Michal never has children because of her spite for David.

Ch 7 David continues to carry a spirit of reverence for Saul's family, for the ark and process of God, etc. He also has a "blind abandonment" for worshipping God, winning battles, etc. The prophet Nathan tells David to do what is on his heart to do, but then adjusts that. David wanted to build a permanent temple for the ark and the presence of the Lord. He is told to get the supplies ready but his son, the next king, will build the temple. (David, as an army man, has blood on his hands.) God promises peace for the remainder of David's kingship. Vs 18-29 See David's prayer of Thanksgiving to the Lord. It is a great representation of what David thought about God. David, as the "man after God's own heart", represents this in a lot of ways. He is a worshipper, a musician at heart, the founder of 24/7 prayer later. God comes first, even in the army's battles. He cares for his army, his people or sheep, even the "enemy", Saul's family. Also David wants a home for God and will care for a temple and the process of the ark. What about our attitude and heart for God? Are we the same?

Ch 8 David has many military victories. Vs 14 "The Lord made David victorious everywhere". Vs 15 David ruled over all Israel and made sure all were treated fairly and justly. Note Zadok is a priest. He remains faithful with David through thick and thin, when others jump ship.

Ch 9 David still remembers the tender relationship he had with Jonathan. He asks if any of Jonathan's family still remains. David gives Mephibosheth all the family land back and a place at David's table, due to being Jonathan's son. Mephibosheth ate at the king's table, like a king's son, for the rest of his life. (Similar to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb).

Ch 10 Discussion on battles with the Ammonites and Syrians.

Ch 11

Ch 10 Discussion on battles with the Ammonites and Syrians.

Ch 11 David sees Bathsheba and wants her for his wife. He sends her husband Uriah to the front where he is killed. Bathsheba becomes David's wife and they have a child. The Lord is not pleased with David. Again, murder. Note the beginning of the chapter, "In the spring time of year, when kings go to war with their armies, David stayed in Jerusalem." When men don't stand in their authority, when they don't attend to their responsibilities, they put themselves in a position to get in trouble. "Idle hands are the devil's workshop; idle lips are his mouthpiece." Proverbs 16:27 TLB.

Saul did the same thing by not having a blacksmith and not having weapons. This brought the army to a standstill and a position of fear.

Ch 12 Nathan the prophet makes up a story to convict David of his sin. See Vs 7-12, Nathan shares what God says to David. David disobeyed and there will be generational discipline because of this. Note Vs 13 David simply says "I have sinned and it is against the Lord." David doesn't die but the child does. This is the first of two incidents where David tries to take control of the situation himself and in both cases it does not end well. Proverbs 16:9 Man makes his plans, but God directs his steps.

The child dies. David doesn't sulk, but takes his punishment. He cleans up and goes to worship. Matthew 6:16-18 (When you fast ...). David and Bathsheba have Solomon, who will build the temple.

Ch 13-14 Just story. David had multiple half sons, one of whom rapes a half-sister. Absalom and Joab are involved. Both are mischievous. Joab is not in the greatest of graces with David. See Ch 14, Vs 25-27. Absalom is like Saul, tall, handsome, ... Absalom will try and take the kingdom from David.

Ch 15 Absalom creates a plot to take over David's role as judge at the city gates. He does this for four years and then assumes he has built enough rapport with the people that he can usurp the throne. Note in the chapter that Zadok the priest stays faithful to David. Ezekiel 44:10-16 Note God realigns the Levitical high priesthood and moves it to Zadok.

Ch 16-18 Absalom's plot to takeover. It all falls apart. Absalom dies. His hair is caught up in a tree and Joab runs him through with three spears.

Ch 19 David mourns for Absalom. He then returns to Jerusalem. Judah and Israel are fussing over who should be king.

Ch 20 A man named Sheba starts a rebellion against David. Somehow, the Israelites follow Sheba, but Judah does not. Sheba is defeated and dies.

Ch 21 There is a famine which lasted for three years. David inquires of the Lord. God said it was because Saul was guilty of murder, he tried to kill the Gibeonites. See Vs 3, David wants to make right the wrong that was done. Note the two character qualities of David, to always inquire of the Lord and not go in his own strength and to do righteous acts, to make the situation align with God's purposes and will. The Gibeonites say they want to hang seven of Saul's descendants. That is what happens. They are buried along with Saul and Jonathan's bones.

There is a fight with the giants of Gath and they are defeated. Note Vs 22, there are four descendants who are giants from Gath, along with Goliath, five total. Some say that is why David picked up five smooth stones when he defeated Goliath. One for each giant brother.

Ch 22 David's song of victory, like a really big Psalm.

Ch 23 David has mighty warriors. There are the three, then there are the thirty. Josheb Basshebeth was the leader of the three and killed 800 men in one battle. Eleazar, son of Dodo, fought the Philistines so hard that his hand would not let go of the sword. Shammah was the third warrior. The Philistines were chasing the Israelite army who was retreating in a field of peas. Shammah stopped and turned and fought and killed the Philistines, winning a great battle that day. (Reference breakthrough).

When David was at the cave of Adullam, he was homesick and longed for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem. The three mighty warriors broke through the Philistine camp and got David the water. David was so moved by the effort of his men to sacrifice their own blood for his drink of water that he wouldn't drink it. He poured it out on the ground as a form of "drink offering".

Some of the accomplishments of the 30 are also described.

Ch 24 God is mad at Israel. He tempts David to count his army, a census. Joab knows that David must always give the Lord credit for the victories and not count on his own strength. Joab tells David not to do the census. David says do it. There are 800,000 Israelites and 500,000 in Judah in the army. Then David's conscience starts to bother him. David says the sin is terrible and repents. Gad the prophet gives David three options as penalty for the sin, for not realizing God was measuring David. David chooses an epidemic for three days. Seventy thousand people die. See Vs 17. David says he is the guilty one. Punish me, not the people. Gad told David to build an altar to the Lord so he could offer sacrifices, on the threshing floor of Araunah. Araunah offers the threshing floor to David for free, but David said, Vs 24, that he would pay for it. "I will not offer sacrifices that have cost me nothing." David paid fifty pieces of silver. 50 is the number for Jubilee?

Note Araunah's threshing floor is Mt. Moriah, the same place Abram went to sacrifice Isaac, the same place the temple is built on.

David made two critical errors in his lifetime, killing Uriah and taking the census. One cost him his child, the other cost the lives of 70,000 people. David's response was to say he had sinned against God and God alone. He paid a personal cost for the place of altar to make sacrifice. Saul never did this.

Summary

Saul and David had much the same "qualification" as kings. Both were, as the movies say, "Tall, Dark and Handsome". Both were military leaders, not afraid to destroy the enemy. Both murdered.

The difference between them was character and heart. Saul was untested growing up, David was tested. Saul was interested in self. David was interested in the heart of God. That is the difference. Saul grew more and more selfish. David grew more for the ways of God.

Where did David learn this? In his father's house.

I Samuel 8:7 God told Samuel the issue was that the people rejected God. They were not interested in His ways. God would look for a man who would say that what matters most is between the man and God, God and God alone. I Samuel 13:14 The kingdom is taken away from Saul and God will find the kind of man He wants, a man after His own heart, who God will make ruler of the people. In Psalm 51:4 David said he had sinned against God and God alone. II Samuel 24:24, David said he would always pay the price to restore his relationship with God. Psalm 105:15, David said he would not touch God's anointed. I Samuel 15:22, it is better to obey than offer sacrifices when a person knowingly does wrong. No cheap grace. The repentance is supposed to be real and may "hurt".

Romans 12:2 We might say Saul was conformed to the world while David was being transformed from the inside out?

Book of Malachi

*God loves his people. He blesses those of Jacob and shields them from their enemies.

(David and his sheep)

*Children are to honour their parents and serve their masters faithfully and respectfully.

(David faithful to obey his father)

*Yet Israel disrespected God by offering sub-par animals for sacrifice. (Saul) God was not accepting their sacrifice. There was no true repentance. Israel was tired of the constant attention to proper sacrifice.

*The priests did not obey the will of God. They were to preach the ways of God so the people could live holy lives and be blessed. Priests played favourites and led the people astray. They broke covenant with God. (Saul)

*Israel was all under one Father God. They fooled themselves to think He wasn't watching. Israelite men married foreign women. Women worshipped idols. Men divorced their wives and broke promise with their partners. God hates divorce. (Saul<>Jonathan, David<>Bathsheba)

*Because the relationships broke down, the hope God had to have children that were truly God's people (David) did not happen. The Lord grew tired of the constant discussion about sacrifice and repentance when it never really happened deep in the heart (David did).

*God will send His messenger to prepare the way (John the Baptist). He will bring with him a refining fire, a true repentance. Purity will be the only true response from God's people (David). Only then will God accept man's sacrifice (Araunah's threshing floor). God will come to judge the intent of the heart and all those without a genuine heart will be turned away (Saul).

*There will be no more cheating with offerings, with the quality of animal brought for sacrifice, with the giving of money in a responsible way. God will then bless the land and show favour on the nation. (David-handling of the ark)

*People have grown weary of repenting, because it is not true repentance. Serving God seems useless. The evil deeds of the people test God's patience (Saul).

*But for those who really feared God and respected Him, they will, in the presence of God, write their name in a book to record their heart. Then God will be merciful to them, then He will show the difference of blessing of those who are true in heart to God. (David)

*God's saving power will fall on those obedient (David).

*Note the ending, the last warning, that Elijah or JTB, will call the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers.

“Faithful in your father’s house” (David)

Luke 22:31 Sift you like wheat (ruin you?)>Strengthen the brethren.

*The Chosen: Peter says I never get it right where He’s going, I don’t get Him.

*Denies 3 times. Broken in heart, but no way to correct it. Jesus is dead.

*John 21, Jesus on beach cooking breakfast. Throw net on right side. Fish! (We’ve been here before. Where is He?)

*The man on the beach, it’s the Lord. But wait, I sinned against Him and Him alone, I totally betrayed Him. I can’t go, yet I need to correct my broken heart.

*If I don’t go, I will never become who I am to become. I will never get back to Him being the most important thing. I will never show my flesh who is boss.

*Peter must go to the Lord. David-this is between you and me alone, I will pay the price.

*3 denials, 3 forgivenesses (is that a word?)

*Feed my lambs/sheep>strengthen the brethren (David>go be king)

Run to repentance (jumped in the water), never flee forgiveness.

Jonah-you still have to go to Ninevah. Repentance that matters.

“Go backward to go forward”. Is there something that went astray in your time at home, in your father’s household? Same question for time you spent under someone else?
Not prepared to your kingdom?

Holy/Love/Create vs Sin/Murder/Hate

David vs Saul

Do you need time on the Potter’s Wheel? Is it not up to the Potter how to use the clay?
Some he makes for “special”, some he makes for “common”. Romans 9, Jeremiah 18

Jump on the wheel

Isaiah 11 (Stump of Jesse>The Father’s House)

*Wisdom, knowledge, skill to rule fairly

*Know God’s will, honour Him, obey Him

*Judge fairly

*Defend the helpless

*Rule with justice and integrity

*Evil will vanish

*All will know and understand the Lord

Psalms 73

I almost lost my confidence, my faith was almost gone, I was jealous of the proud (David)
(Saul)

*Things go well for the wicked

- *They don't suffer pain
- *Strong and healthy
- *No troubles or suffering
- *Proud, violent, controlling, evil hearts
- *Wicked schemes, oppress others
- *God's people believe what they say
- *God won't find out
- *Have plenty and are always getting more
- *Am I believing for nothing, will they always win??

But, (David)

- *I want to be one of your people, so I went to temple...
- *I now see what will happen to the wicked
- *They are on a slippery slope, their wickedness will fail
- *There is a horrible end coming in eternity
- *You will make their dreams go away; you will rouse yourself against them
- *While my heart is to always stay close to you, I did not understand you
- *You hold my hand, you guide me and instruct me, you will receive me with honour
- *As Peter said, "Where else will we go?", so I say "What else in heaven do I have but you?"
- "What else could I possibly want?"
- *While my body and mind grow weak, God is my strength and He is all I'll ever need.
- *How wonderful to be near God, to find the protection of the Sovereign Lord, to proclaim all He has done.

In the end, the "eternal" wins over "today" or "heart" over "self". Understanding the Father is the foundation for this. The stump of Jesse, the Father, produces the root of Christ, the Son, which produces the children of God, who are just like their father.